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In spite of these minor defects, some of which may after all be merely matters of personal opinion, Mr. Silloway's little pamphlet will prove of great value to all who camp in or visit the park—and they are already numbered by the thousands—while it will also be a record of present-day conditions for comparison with those of future years.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'—The last part of this work[1] which we have received covers the Swifts, Nightjars, Roller, Kingfisher, Woodpeckers, Cuckoos and most of the Owls.

Among the nomenclatural points that we notice is Dr. Hartert's advocacy of the use of *Apus* for the Swift, saying that we "must suppose" that Scopoli purposely made the two names *Apus* and *Apos* different. Others, however, are privileged to take an opposite view of the matter and an arbitrary ruling is necessary, if we are to have uniformity in such cases. Such a rule we find in the A. O. U. 'Code' which regards such names as the same. On much the same grounds *Agolius* Kamp is used in place of *Cryptoglaux*, as in the 'Hand-List' of Hartert et al., but the specific name *funerea* is now used as in the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'

There is an excellent half-tone plate of Owls' heads and numerous line drawings, while the general high standard of the work is fully maintained. We congratulate the author and his associates upon the excellent progress that they are making.—W. S.

Bangs and Kennard on the Birds of Jamaica.—Messrs. Bangs and Kennard have contributed the list of birds[2] to the 1920 edition of 'The Handbook of Jamaica.' The list is entirely rewritten and is a distinct improvement upon the Sclater list of 1910, adding a number of species there omitted and bringing the whole subject up to date.

There are now 219 species and subspecies recorded from the island, of which, however, 26 need confirmation. Three species have been introduced, 81 are migrants or winter visitants from the north, five are summer visitors from the south, while 104 are resident—exactly half of this number, including one family (Euneornidae) and eleven genera, being endemic.

The authors seem to lack the courage of their convictions in one case of nomenclature or are anxious to secure all possible "subspecific" credit, since they propose a new name, *Charadrius vociferus ternominatus* (p. 8) for *Oxyechus vociferus rubidus* Riley, which, as they say, *would* be preoccupied by *Charadrius rubidus* Gmel. if we refuse to recognize *Oxyechus* as a distinct genus. But the authors show no sign of rejecting it and hence

[1] A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part IX (Vol. II, pp. 1–80), September 20, 1920. Price 4s, 6d. per part.

[2] A List of the Birds of Jamaica. By Outram Bangs and Frederic H. Kennard. Excerpted from 'The Handbook of Jamaica,' 1920. Jamaica, 1920, pp. 1–18.

do not use their own new name. It would be sad to think that the crop of subspecies were so nearly harvested that we must needs propose names that *might* be required in various contingencies!

It is interesting to note that the two races of *Dendroica dominica* occur on the island in winter in about equal numbers and that the authors "feel certain" that the Prairie Warbler does not breed on the island as has often been claimed. We trust that the present authors' services may be again available when another edition of the 'Handbook' is to be prepared as their work has been carefully and conscientiously performed.—W. S.

McClymont's 'Essays on Early Ornithology.'—In a handsomely printed little brochure[1] of limited edition, Mr. McClymont presents six short essays on early ornithological writings under the headings: 'The Rukh of Marco Polo'; 'The Penguins and the Seals of the Angra de Sam Bras'; 'The Banda Islands and the Bandan Birds'; 'The Etymology of the Name Emu'; 'Australian Birds in 1697'; and 'New Zealand Birds in 1772.' There are three plates representing a young *Casuarius uni-appendiculatus* in the British Museum, a reproduction of Schiffart's plate of a Cassowary, probably *C. galeatus*, published in 1725, and a Blue-faced Gannet from a specimen in the Royal Scottish Museum.

The "rukh" (or "roc") our author concludes is a combination of a myth arising from the simourgh of the Persians and the observation of some real bird possibly a sea eagle. The name "emu" or the earlier "eme" referred to the Ceram Cassowary and it is suggested that it is a Portuguese modification of the Arabic name "neama" indicating the Cassowary. The chapter on Australian birds refers to the Dutch East Indian Company expedition in 1696 which discovered not a few of the striking birds of this continent and Mr. McClymont presents strong arguments for identifying among the species referred to in journal of the voyage; the Black-necked Swan, Cape Barren Goose, Musk Duck, and Emu. The correct identification of these very early references to birds is an attractive field of research but a difficult one, as early voyagers were not well versed in ornithology, and in attempting to describe the strange birds that they encountered they were forced to make use of the names of common European species having no affinity whatever with them. With our present knowledge of the avifauna of the countries which they visited there is, however, often some casual mention of structure or habit which gives us the clue, although there is always the possibility of the species seen in early times having become extinct.

Mr. McClymont has given us an interesting bit of ornithological history and his publishers a beautiful piece of book making.—W. S.

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[1] Essays on Ornithology and Kindred Subjects. By James R. McClymont. M. A. Author of 'Pedraluarez Cabral,' 'Vicente Anes Pincon' (with three plates). London, Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., 11 Grafton Street, New Bond Street, 1920, small quarto, 1–35.